

REMARKS

An assignee of the entire interest of the above-identified application has appointed the undersigned to prosecute and transact all business in connection with therewith. The Power of Attorney by Assignee and Revocation of Prior Powers and a copy of the Assignment, filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark office on June 25, 1999, and recorded on June 25, 2000, at Reel 010990, Frame 0272 of the U.S. Patent Office assignment records, are enclosed.

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted to convert multiple dependent claims to dependent claims, to conform the claims to U.S. patent practice and to more distinctly point out the Applicants' invention. No new matter is being introduced by the present amendments.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment prior to examination of the application on the merits. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative to discuss any outstanding issues.

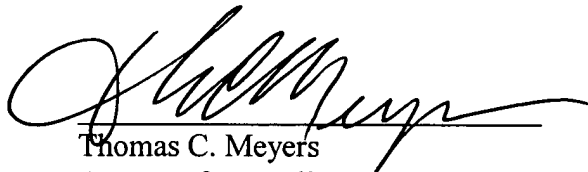
Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/4/00

Testa, Hurwitz & Thibault, LLP
125 High Street
High Street Tower
Boston, MA 02110

Tel. (617) 248-7013
Fax (617) 248-7100

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Thomas C. Meyers
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 36,989